(d) the reasons for such land becoming surplus; and

(e) since how long such land remained idle and whether Government had earlier tried to put them to any productive use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) to (c) Indian Railways have approx 10.65 lakh acre of land. About 90% of this land is under Railway's operational and allied usages. The total vacant land, at present, is about 1.13 lakh acre.

In order to mobilise additional financial resources, Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) has been set up by Railways through the Railway (Amendment) Act, 2005 to undertake commercial development of that vacant railway land and air-space which is not required by Railways for its immediate future operational needs. So far 133 sites of such vacant land measuring 3744 acre have been entrusted to RLDA on various Zonal Railways for commercial development. RLDA has taken up studies for ascertaining revenue potential of these sites. Railways have also planned to utilise its 1.13 lakh acre vacant land, wherever feasible, for setting up of various infrastructural projects, which include Rail Coach and Component factories, Multi-Modal Logistic Parks, Auto hubs, Cold Storage and Perishable Cargo Centres, and others through innovative financing models in order to earn more revenue for the railways, create additional railway infrastructure, and also generate employment opportunities.

Incidents of deaths due to run over by trains

1821. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether within first week of November, 2009 only there were five incidents of run over by trains leading to death of nineteen persons including railway men on duty;

(b) if so, the details of the same, date and location-wise;

(c) whether enquiry committees have been constituted to investigate the same; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) and (b) During the first week of November, 2009, 99 incidents of run over were reported over Indian Railways in which 122 persons died. Out of these 99 incidents, 3 major incidents were reported from Northern Railway causing death of 11 Railway employees and 6 others. The brief details of these incidents are as under:-

(i) On 03.11.2009, six persons were run over by Train No. 2015 (Ajmer Shatabdi Express) near Pataudi Railway Station in Delhi-Rewari section.

(ii) On 03.11.2009, six gangmen were run over by EMU Train No. NP6 between Asaoti and Palwal Railway Stations in New Delhi-Agra section.

(iii) On 07.11.2009, five railway-men including one Junior Engineer were run over by Dehradun Jan Shatabdi Express between Sahibabad and Ghaziabad Railway Stations.

(c) and (d) Investigation into the incident at S.No. (i) has been conducted by GRP. Enquiry has been conducted and completed in the incidents at S.Nos. (ii) and (iii) causing death of railway men.

Work on Western Dedicated Freight Corridor

†1822. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time and place from where work on Western Dedicated Freight Corridor project commenced;

(b) whether acquisition of land, forest department's approval where necessary, removal of utilities, etc., for this corridor have been completed;

(c) the alignment of this project in Rajasthan;

(d) the details of its progress at present; and

(e) the target fixed for completion of this work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED) : (a) On Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, the first construction contract for 54 major and important bridges between Vaitarna and Utran on Vasai-Bharuch Section was awarded on 26.12.2008 and the work has commenced.

(b) Acquisition of land, forest Department's clearance where necessary, removal of utilities etc. are in progress, and have not been completed.

(c) In Rajasthan, Western Dedicated Fright Corridor traverses for 564 Kilometers of which 523 Kilometers is parallel to the existing Indian Railways alignment from Palanpur to Rewari and 41 Kilometers is on detours.

(d) and (e) Final Location Survey of the Western Corridor has been completed. Notification for Land Acquisition for Western Dedicated Freight Corridor have been issued for 1346 Kilometers and 362 Kilometers under Section 20A and 20E of the Railway (Amendment) Act, 2008 respectively. The tentative schedule of completion of the project, Subject to availability of land and fund, is 2016-17.

Development of group housing and commercial projects on unused land

†1823. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways proposes to develop group housing and commercial projects in its unused land all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.